

WE CLAIM:

1. A turning device for use in concert with a conveyor adapted to feed elongated wood pieces
5 one-by-one to the turning device, comprising:

at least one turning member moveable between an idle position and an operational position;

a sensor located upstream of said turning member, for scanning the wood pieces on the conveyor;

10 and

an operator controlled by said sensor and adapted, when actuated, to selectively cause said turning member to be displaced to said operational position for turning a given elongated wood piece on
15 the conveyor to a desired position.

2. A turning device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said turning member is mounted to a motorised carrier for continuously displacing said turning member
20 adjacent the conveyor, wherein said operator while said turning member is being displaced by said carrier is adapted to selectively move said turning member to said operational position.

25 3. A turning device as defined in Claim 2, wherein said carrier drives said turning member along a closed-loop guide.

4. A turning device as defined in Claim 3, wherein
30 said guide comprises a main section and a secondary section, wherein in said main section said turning member remains in said idle position, whereas when said turning member engages said secondary section said turning member is displaced to said operational
35 position.

5. A turning device as defined in Claim 4, wherein a said operator comprises a movable deflector adapted to be displaced between first and second positions by said sensor, whereby in said first position said 5 turning member displaces in said main section in said idle position, whereas in said second position said turning member is guided so as to displace in said secondary section in said operational position.

10 6. A turning device as defined in Claim 5, wherein said deflector is adapted in said second position to sufficiently block said main section for forcing said turning member in said secondary section.

15 7. A turning device as defined in Claim 6, wherein said deflector is pivotally mounted.

8. A turning device as defined in Claim 2, wherein said carrier comprises at least one closed-loop chain 20 with said turning member being mounted to said chain.

9. A turning device as defined in Claim 8, wherein said turning member is pivotally mounted at one end thereof to said chain, another end of said turning 25 member being adapted in said operational position to contact the given elongated wood piece for turning the latter to the desired position.

10. A turning device as defined in Claim 4, wherein 30 said turning member is pivotally mounted to said carrier, said carrier and said guide being located under a section of the conveyor carrying the elongated wood pieces, said turning member in said operational position extending upwardly through a 35 plane defined by the undersurfaces of the elongated wood pieces being carried by the conveyor.

11. A turning device as defined in Claim 10, wherein
said turning member comprises a guide pin, said guide
comprising a guide track defining said main and
secondary sections, said guide pin being engaged in
5 said guide track, said operator being adapted to
selectively deflect said guide pin from said main
section into said secondary section when said sensor
determines that an elongated wood piece has to be
turned, whereby while said guide pin is being
10 displaced in said secondary section said turning
assumes said operational position and causes the
elongated wood piece to turn on the conveyor.

12. A method for turning an elongated wood piece
15 carried by a conveyor, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a sensor to determine if a wood
piece is to be turned on the conveyor; and
b) providing a motorised turning member
automatically operated if it has been determined in
20 step a) that the wood piece is to be turned such as
to cause the elongated wood piece to be turned on the
conveyor by said turning member to a desired
position.